

WIS 83 study public information meeting #1

Date: December 3, 2002

Location: Kettle Moraine High School in Wales from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Meeting notice: Individual notices were mailed to abutting property owners, those that signed in at past local information sessions, local officials, agencies, and other interests. Meeting announcements were also published in the Lake Country Reporter, Kettle Moraine Index, and Mukwonago Chief.

Materials available at meeting: Displays included aerial photos showing the latest alternatives, existing and proposed right-of-way, potential residential and business displacements, high crash locations and a preliminary impact summary table. Other materials included “before and after” photos to illustrate how a wider roadway would look at various locations, a take home summary explaining why the study is being done, the range of alternatives being considered, traffic and crash data, contact information, and a comment form. Brochures on Wisconsin’s real estate program for residential and business displacements were also available.

Attendance: Approximately 210 area residents and other interests attended the meeting to learn more about the study and provide comments on the latest alternatives being considered. Study team members took notes based on individual or small group discussions and over 80 written comments were received.

Comment summary: Based on the study team’s review of all comments received during and after the public information meeting, the following key issues and concerns were identified.

- In general, most people agree there are emerging safety and traffic congestion problems along portions of the WIS 83 corridor but many do not believe a future four-lane highway is needed in the entire corridor to address these concerns.
- Opposition to widening WIS 83 to four lanes in the stretch from Walnut Street/Seville Lane in “Genesee Village” to County D north of Genesee Depot was nearly unanimous. Concerns include a strong desire to preserve the rural, small town/historic character and the older homes and businesses adjacent to WIS 83. Several people also noted that the existing two-lane highway and right angle turn in Genesee Depot helps deter truck traffic and serves as a “traffic calming” tool. Most people suggested that any improvements in this segment be based on the no build alternative (spot safety improvements) or two-lane reconstruction alternative. Several people suggested that removing street parking on one or both sides of WIS 83 in Genesee Depot would provide additional traffic capacity without affecting adjacent homes and businesses.
- There is concern that a four-lane highway will increase traffic and reduce safety at Magee elementary school in Genesee Depot and several people suggested that a flashing school zone light is needed here.
- Property owners and a few others expressed opposition to the off-alignment alternative (alternative “D”) southwest of Genesee Depot because it would affect high quality natural

resources including wetlands and springs. A few people thought the off alignment alternative would address traffic and access concerns in Genesee Depot.

- Many residents who live on the east side of WIS 83 between County NN and County X oppose the present proposal to widen down the middle in this segment, noting that there is more open land west of WIS 83 and while widening west would have more wetland impact, fewer homes would be affected with this alternative.
- Several village of Wales residents expressed opposition to the four-lane divided cross section with a 24-foot wide grass median. If a four-lane highway is needed, an undivided cross section with turn lanes is preferred. It was also noted that there should be traffic signals at either the WIS 83/Criglas Road or the WIS 83/Main Street intersections.
- There was general concern about property access from a four-lane divided highway. Several people noted that having access limited to right-in and right-out turns and having to use the nearest median break or local road intersection to turn around would be disruptive and inconvenient.